



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Plan on a page

The domestic abuse data analysis sub-group met to consider all qualitative and quantitative data collected as part of the domestic abuse needs assessment which will inform the local domestic abuse strategy.

Consideration was given to what services are currently available in Darlington, what the authority's new obligations are under the Domestic Abuse Act and where the gaps are.

Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation based support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

Local authorities will need to ensure all victims of domestic abuse have access to the right support within safe accommodation when they need it.

Support within safe accommodation is to be available to local and out of area victims and their children.

Safe accommodation will include:

- Refuge accommodation
- Specialist safe accommodation – protected characteristics and complex needs
- Dispersed accommodation
- Sanctuary schemes
- Move on and/or second stage accommodation
- Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation

Domestic abuse support will include:

- Advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers);
- Domestic abuse-prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation;
- Specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and / or complex needs, for example, interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice;
- Children’s support – including play therapy and child advocacy;
- Housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home and advice on how to live safely and independently; and
- Counselling and therapy for both adults and children.

Evaluand (what is being evaluated): Quantitative and qualitative data collected via the MHCLG data collection template – data sources included police, children’s services, adults’ services, MARAC, Family Help Refuge, Harbour Services outreach support, Halo Refuge and Housing Options. Voice of the victim/survivor and their children qualitative data received from Harbour Services. Voice of the victim/survivor data collected as part of the Tees Valley collaborative virtual survey; community consultation data compiled by RRR Consultancy, Harbour Services and Darlington’s IDVA.

Evaluation dates: 29 September – 20 October 2021

Evaluation panel: Sharon Cable, Dr. Samantha Level, Ken Ross, Beth Rennard, Alan Rust-Ryan, Kate Rust-Ryan, Amanda Hugill, Sharon Carr, Peter Stirling and Bronwyn Lilley.

Darlington Borough Council’s Domestic Abuse priorities

Priority	Current provision	Gaps	Actions
Additional support for children including psychological support for children who have witnessed abuse.	Currently 10 hours per week of Harbour support Harbour recently secured Ministry of Justice funding for a Young	There are long waiting times for children to access group and 1:1 support sessions	Increase children’s support provision through Harbour

Priority	Current provision	Gaps	Actions
	<p>Person's IDVA who works across Durham and Darlington so that is a service targeted at young victims of domestic abuse aged 12-18</p> <p>4 Kids Project</p>		<p>Link with education providers regarding curriculum and multi-agency working</p> <p>Additional Harbour posts (detailed under additional needs for adults)</p>
<p>Provision of a Sanctuary Scheme</p>	<p>There is no current provision within Darlington</p>	<p>There is no current provision within Darlington</p>	<p>Implement a Sanctuary Scheme in Darlington</p> <p>Ensure Harbour hours are sufficient to cover sanctuary scheme properties</p>
<p>Additional support for adult victims/survivors</p>	<p>There is currently 90 hours per week of Harbour support available to all community members</p>	<p>There are long waiting times for support such as counselling</p>	<p>Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Link Worker</p> <p>Specialist support within the Housing Options Team</p> <p>Lead practitioner based at Harbour</p> <p>Continuation of recovery programme</p>
<p>Local accommodation and support for victims/survivors with complex needs and/or protected characteristics</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Complex Needs Service including four dispersed properties available through Harbour</p>	<p>Current provision meeting needs however future requirements as the Act is embedded across all agencies is unknown</p>	<p>Continuation of the current Complex Needs Service beyond current contract expiry</p> <p>Introduction of two additional dispersed properties through DBC Housing</p>

Priority	Current provision	Gaps	Actions
Gather the voice of victims/survivors and their children	There is no provision in place	There is no means of gathering the voice of victims/survivors and their children	<p>Victim/survivor forums</p> <p>Virtual surveys</p> <p>Open link between the community and the Council's Commissioning Team via email</p> <p>Link with education and children's social care teams who work directly with victims and their children</p> <p>Recruitment of a Voice of the Victim Champion Officer (based at PCC)</p> <p>Multi-agency partnerships</p>
Perpetrator programme	<p>1 day Barnardo's awareness raising programme</p> <p>27 week Harbour programme</p>	<p>Does not focus on the whole family</p> <p>Current provision expires 31 March 2022 with no committed future funding</p> <p>Feedback regarding the 27 week programme is difficult to maintain</p>	<p>Commit funding to perpetrator programme from 1 April 2022.</p> <p>Dedicated Lead Practitioner to work with the whole family</p> <p>Consider format of current programme provision including accessibility</p>

Priority	Current provision	Gaps	Actions
		engagement with perpetrators due to its length	
Data collection and reporting capabilities	Data is collected by agencies in a variety of formats	Lack of consistent and robust data collection	Implement consistent and efficient methods of data collection and analysis Improved internal data collection mechanisms Improved use of existing CDP Soft database Participation in regional performance management network
Understanding of domestic abuse, including non-violent forms of abuse, to be embedded into all relevant agencies and within the community.	Domestic abuse is included within DBC Safeguarding Training		Staff briefing regarding new responsibilities under the Act; how to recognise signs of domestic abuse; how to respond; and where to access support CAPVA training and awareness raising Bespoke DBC Safeguarding Domestic Abuse training Awareness raising campaign

Priority	Current provision	Gaps	Actions
			Multi-agency partnerships
For all victims/survivors to have affordable access to accommodation and support regardless of their benefit entitlement or working status	Everyone has access to accommodation however those without recourse to public funding have to pay for example their mortgage/private rental as well as the cost of safe accommodation.	Affordable accommodation for victims who are not eligible for financial support	The two additional dispersed accommodation properties will mitigate the additional costs that would be incurred.